



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 14, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: April 13, 2003
CWP WA-CW1503

Bluegrass Acreage being Torn Out Frost Damage Reported on Cherry Crop

Field Crops

Bluegrass acreage torn out due to drought last fall were reported to be higher than expected in the northeast. Fieldwork was interrupted by occasional showers, but farmers made good progress in seeding spring wheat and barley. Conditions to date remain favorable for spring cereals. Potato planting continued to progress in Franklin and Benton Counties. Turfgrass growers in Thurston County struggled to harvest sod from wet fields. Hybrid poplar plantations showed initial forage emergence.

Livestock

Branding took place in Ferry and Okanogan Counties and cattle were prepared to move to spring range. Favorable conditions in Stevens County have put grass growth approximately thirty days ahead of last spring. Range and pasture conditions were 8% poor, 75% fair, and 17% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

The blossom period was well underway in central Washington. Bloom numbers were reported to be about normal in the Yakima Valley. The cherry crop in the north was estimated to have sustained about fifteen percent frost damage. Asparagus harvest continued in central Washington, while onions, carrots, sweet corn, and vegetable seed crops were also being planted. In King County, covered field grown herbs were being harvested.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.9
Last Week	4.2

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	10	87	3
Subsoil	0	18	80	2
Irrigation Water	0	5	95	0
Hay & Roughage	0	8	92	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	57	39	55	55
Spring Wheat Emerged	15	9	16	21
Barley Planted	36	18	38	39
Barley Emerged	6	2	5	10
Potatoes Planted	32	18	27	29
Potatoes Emerged	7	6	6	7
Proc. Green Peas Planted	14	2	13	12
Dry Peas Planted	5	1	7	13

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	8	30	52	8
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	25	64	11
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	49	51	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	20	80	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Much needed rain was welcomed on most of the Peninsula. Riparian buffer projects spring planting of trees and shrubs were wrapping up. Fieldwork will begin soon for spring planted crops.

Clark: The weather was generally rainy, with some sun breaks in the middle of the week. Heavy rainfall occurred on Saturday evening, April 12, with areas of the county receiving as much as 1" of rain in two hours time.

Grays Harbor: Ag producers remained frustrated with above average precipitation. Field cultivation continued to be delayed due to super saturated soils. Christmas tree growers continued to apply residual and post-emergent weed killers and fertilized plantations. Blueberry growers were spot spraying for Canada thistle infestations. Forage fields were growing vigorously. Hybrid poplar plantations were showing initial foliage emergence.

Kitsap: Rain continued to limit field activity.

Pierce/S. King: Crop conditions were good for this time of year. There were no unusual situations or crop damage to report.

Snohomish/N. King: Several days during the week felt more like fall weather with temperatures slightly below normal. Rainfall was heavy at times, with afternoon sun breaks. Fieldwork began on schedule for early crops. Covered field grown herbs were being harvested in north King County.

Thurston: Rain showers throughout the week continued to delay field cultivation. Soils in many parts of the county remained super saturated due to above average rainfall this spring. Christmas tree growers applied residual herbicides and fertilizer between showers. Turfgrass growers struggled to harvest sod from wet fields. Dairymen applied manure solids to forage fields where lighter soils prevented equipment from getting bogged down. Blueberry growers were predicting a good crop based on fruiting bud development.

Whatcom: Rain showers were received every day and were needed. The raspberry vines continued to bud out. Producers were starting to get their fields ready for planting corn and potatoes.

Central

Benton: Pruning and orchard cleanup were nearly complete. Frost protection and early irrigation were primary activities.

Benton (2nd Report): Rain showers were received over the weekend. The temperature was 1 degree cooler than normal. There were no reports of crop damage.

Chelan/Douglas/Okanogan: Tree fruit blossom was well underway. Sweet cherries and pears will be blooming this week, and apples will start about April 20. Full bloom in lower elevations will be between April 22 and April 27. Some scattered frost damage was reported from the coldest localities, but there were no significant widespread losses. Growers were busy with early season pest and disease control.

Okanogan/Ferry: Most of the county experienced as much as .3" of moisture during the week. Branding was taking place and most cattle will be out on spring range soon. The cherry crop sustained recent frost damage and the extent of damage was estimated at 15 percent. More information will be known after the June drop.

Yakima: Tree fruit bud development was good. Bloom numbers were about normal. Red Delicious apples were very light in some locations.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 2 to 7 degrees above normal with .19" of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat and moisture conditions were unchanged from the previous week. Spring cereal seeding was complete and about 25 percent of the crop has emerged. Conditions were favorable for spring cereals.

Asotin/Garfield: Planting of spring crops proceeded at a rapid pace as weather conditions allowed producers into the fields. It was still very wet in some areas and planting is a week or two behind normal. Winter wheat was looking very good. Pastures and rangeland were improving.

Douglas/Chelan: Some precipitation was received during the week. Temperatures have been cool. Cherry trees were in the bloom stage.

Franklin: Moderate temperatures and some periods of rain were received during the week. Asparagus harvest continued. Potatoes, onions, and carrots were being planted.

Grant: Carrots, sweet corn, and onion planting continued. Annual vegetable seed crop planting was nearly complete.

Lincoln: Winter wheat and moisture conditions remained unchanged. Spring cereal seeding was progressing quickly across the county. Conditions were favorable for spring cereals.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The weather in the counties has been

typical spring weather. A little fieldwork was done between showers but very little. The moisture and the sun was good for pastures and the winter wheat. Bluegrass acreage torn out due to drought last fall may be larger numbers than originally thought.

Stevens: Warm temperatures and plentiful moisture greened up pastures and hay fields. Favorable conditions put grass growth approximately 30 days ahead of last spring. Cattle producers were finishing off their winter hay supplies and looking forward to moving cows to grass. Alfalfa and winter wheat crops were in good condition.

Walla Walla/Columbia: Temperatures continued to be cool, slowing crop and rangeland growth. Timely rain events were providing good moisture; however, slowing spring seeding schedules.

Whitman: Fieldwork was interrupted by occasional showers, but farmers did make good progress in seeding spring wheat and barley during the week. The condition of the winter wheat crop continued to improve with the milder spring weather. The spring calving and lambing season was winding down, and pasture growth was also steadily improving.

Whitman(2nd Report): Lots of rain was received during the week.

Weekly Weather Statistics

April 14, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	41	60	50	4	11	4	0	0	0.75	0.12	5	20.71	-7.17	74	108
Everett	42	62	50	3	9	2	0	0	0.74	0.07	5	21.24	-6.66	76	113
Hoquiam	42	60	50	2	8	1	0	0	2.27	1.14	6	56.82	-0.73	99	123
Kelso	41	66	53	6	25	15	0	0	1.69	0.85	6	21.93	-15.74	58	88
Olympia	37	64	50	4	10	3	0	0	1.82	0.99	5	33.68	-9.40	78	117
Sea-Tac	42	64	51	3	11	4	0	0	1.39	0.81	7	28.90	-1.99	94	110
Shelton	39	61	49	1	4	-7	0	0	2.12	1.07	6	51.16	-5.38	90	114
Tacoma	39	66	51	3	13	6	0	0	1.16	0.46	5	24.02	-8.85	73	104
Vancouver	42	67	54	6	28	18	0	0	1.77	1.09	6	30.28	-3.54	90	112
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	34	65	49	4	1	-6	0	0	0.06	-0.08	2	7.14	0.25	104	67
Omak	30	70	51	8	20	15	0	0	0.40	0.19	3	9.42	-0.32	97	50
Stampede Pass	28	54	39	7	0	0	0	0	0.99	-0.26	6	52.92	-15.71	77	114
Wenatchee	39	69	52	3	15	0	0	0	0.58	0.42	3	7.94	1.74	128	63
Yakima AP	36	70	53	62	24	11	0	0	0.16	0.02	4	6.80	0.61	110	45
NORTHEAST															
Colville	32	68	53	9	31	24	0	0	0.27	-0.08	3	13.89	-1.03	93	54
Deer Park	28	69	50	7	16	9	0	0	0.31	-0.02	4	17.16	3.90	129	75
Spokane AP	30	67	51	7	17	10	0	0	0.21	-0.07	4	12.38	0.61	105	77
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	33	71	53	4	27	11	0	0	0.24	0.10	4	6.91	1.44	126	46
Moses Lake	35	72	54	5	30	14	0	0	0.22	0.08	2	6.73	1.26	123	63
Quincy	34	72	53	5	27	13	0	0	0.20	0.06	3	5.51	-0.41	93	46
Ritzville	31	73	51	6	20	13	0	0	0.22	0.01	4	9.53	1.08	113	69
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	32	78	55	3	43	13	1	0	0.21	0.09	2	6.57	1.45	128	56
Pasco	37	80	58	6	57	31	1	1	0.06	-0.04	2	5.90	0.16	103	60
Pullman	32	68	51	8	18	11	0	0	0.11	-0.24	4	8.11	-7.50	52	72
Whitman Miss.	29	78	53	4	28	12	4	3	0.24	-0.04	4	11.83	1.80	118	97
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	34	72	51	6	19	12	0	0	0.19	-0.23	3	13.94	-4.83	74	72
Lewiston ID	31	74	54	5	38	20	4	4	0.31	0.04	4	8.95	1.21	116	83

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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